

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Quarterly Meeting July 18-19, 2007  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Salmon Regional Office  
Salmon, Idaho**

**July 18, 2007**

Commission Field Tour/McFarland Carmen Creek Easement Proposal

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Public Meeting**

Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Commissioners Gary Power, Bob Barowsky, Randy Budge, Tony McDermott and Wayne Wright were present. Director Groen introduced Department staff in attendance.

Chairman Wheeler noted that the Commission takes the public comments seriously and will review the public comments at Thursday's meeting .

Charles Harling, Carmen, Idaho, expressed his concerns as to why there are no early archery seasons in Unit 28. He also asked the Commission why archers are limited to one area to hunt elk.

Thomas Terrillion, Salmon, spoke regarding as to why there is no bow hunting in Unit 28 in September.

Gary Gapp, North Fork, Idaho, is an archery hunter and is concerned about the lack of hunting in Unit 28 in September. He complimented the Department on season changes made for mule deer in the Region. Mr. Gapp has heard that there is talk of shortening some of the seasons; is there a particular group; and will there be general seasons.

Nate Helm representing Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW), spoke regarding mule deer and wolves. Mr. Helm noted that SFW and other sportsmen will be presenting at the Fish and Wildlife Service open house and hearing regarding the proposed amendment to the 10(j) rule. It is in the interest of the SFW board that the Commission considers making comments and taking a more outward presentation and in support of that proposed amendment. Mr. Helm referenced comments on a blog regarding shortened seasons for archery seasons. Mr. Helm stated he was looking for a opportunity to create a relationship with the state bow hunters. Mr. Helm stated he would be available if there are questions. SFW has a white paper that is available regarding their organization.

Mike Murray, representing Idaho Muzzleloader Association (IMA) appreciates what the Commission did for the muzzleloader rules. IMA has heard that the Commission wants

to review the decisions made earlier. IMA feels that since the rules are set for this hunting season they would like to follow up for one more year. This would give 2 years of harvest rates and numbers to compare.

Mike Wallingford, Salmon spoke regarding the early archery hunt in Unit 28; ATV's are out of control and would like the Commission to look at the problem.

Stan Davis, Mayor of Salmon, spoke regarding Unit 28; there are too many deer in city of Salmon. He receives daily calls reporting of deer in the city and he refers the calls to the Fish and Game office. Mr. Davis is willing to work with Fish and Game to find a solution for the problem.

Ed Lindahl, Sagle, comments via letter dated July 17, 2007 regarding license dollars.

### **Adjournment**

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

### **July 19, 2007**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Opening Comments**

Chairman Wheeler thanked Commissioner Power for the field tour of the Salmon Region.

### **Agenda Changes**

Chairman Wheeler noted that agenda items #17 and #18 would be presented after the scheduled morning break.

### **Review of Public Comment**

Commissioners discussed the comments heard at the public meeting regarding the archery hunts in Unit 28. Commissioner Power noted that Unit 28 has been brought to the public three times to change from a late archery season to an early archery season. Each time it has been shot down. The Region will address the issue. Commissioner Power stated that the Region will work with the city to address the problem of the deer in the city of Salmon.

Director Groen stated that it would be a good time for the Commission to review the process for zones and the A & B tags; and suggests as an agenda item for the future. He noted that it has been about 10 years since the A & B tags were implemented.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Groen referenced the following topics:

- Director's Report in the Commission agenda book
- Thanks to Regional Supervisor Jim Lukens and staff for the field tour of the Region
- Thanks to Steve Yundt for his work on BPA money for habitat
- Thanked Craig Wiedmeier for his work on the transition to the new license system
- The Department's quarterly tabloid *Mule Deer Edition* is out
- Governor's Capital for a Day Magic Valley Region
- Citizens Against Poaching (CAP) have 3 Educational Trailers
- WAFWA report on Hunter Recruitment and Retention
  - All of the western states are facing this issue of recruitment and retention
  - Operations Team will discuss

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Commission Reports**

Southeast Region: Commissioner Budge reported on the following:

- Pelican problem at Blackfoot Reservoir
  - Effort to restore cutthroat trout
  - Region Working with Fish and Wildlife Service
- Crystal Springs Ponds / Public Fishing Day
  - Free Fishing Day had good attendance
- Attended Mule Deer Survey meeting
- August 4<sup>th</sup> Mule Deer Workshop
- Commends Department staff on the Special Mule Deer Tabloid
- Enforcement of motor vehicle travel plans restrictions continue to be an area of difficulty
  - Region is working closely with ranger districts
- Reports of sizeable fish American Falls
  - 2 years of excellent water conditions
  - Salvage orders being prepared for Chesterfield Reservoir
- Region working with Bingham County on West Nile Virus
- Selenium contamination effecting some of the streams in Southeast Idaho

Salmon Region: Commissioner Power reported on the following:

- Referenced Nate Helm comments at the public meeting regarding sportsmen expect measurable improvements in mule deer
  - Commission stance on 10(j) rule
  - The Department is deeply involved
- Commends staff on for preparation of Commission Field Tour
- Reconnect of Big Timber Creek
- Free Fishing Day
  - Three different ponds in Salmon
  - Kids Creek Pond is heavily used
- Moen Property is a big plus for Fisheries
- Office of Species Conservation (OSC) funding for major species
- Peregrine falcons doing well in the Region
- Cooperative Agreements working on noxious weeds

Southwest Region: Commissioner Barowsky reported on the following:

- Drought is having an effect on some of the fishing areas
- Three major fires on winter ranges
- West Nile Virus on WMA's
- ATV issues working with BLM on travel management plans on the Owyhee front
- Reported on Big Game Management
- Hells Canyon goats holding strong at 196
- Free Fishing Day had good turn out
- Three Fishing Camps held for youth in coordination with Parks and Recreation
- Volunteers planting bitterbrush
- Referenced Enforcement responding to 104 non related Fish and Game calls

Panhandle Region: Commissioner McDermott reported on the following:

- Attended WAFWA Summer Meeting
- Commissioners Forum Topics
  - Commission Guidebook
  - Understanding the Fish and Wildlife Commission's role in strategic partnership with the Agency, the Director and Stakeholders
  - Farm Bill
  - Public Trust
  - DVD "Opportunity For All" Wildlife Model for the World
  - 33 Commissioners attended conference
- Lake Pend Oreille predator reduction efforts are ahead of last year
- Lake Pend Oreille kokanee spawning habitat destruction
- Commercial netters were used to net just over 1,982 Lake Trout at Priest Lake
- Panhandle Region hosted 10 clinics around the Region with over 1400 people participating
- Mike Murray muzzleloader comments will be discussed under agenda item # 14

- Attended Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative in Bonners Ferry

Magic Valley Region: Commissioner Wright reported on the following:

- Lack of water has impacted several reservoirs
- Fires at Snowville, Unit 56, 18,000 acres burned
- Blackpine, Unit 57, 73,000 acres burned
- Jerome/Shoshone Unit 53, 45,000 burned
- Staff is working on three Mule Deer Initiative projects in Unit 56
- Habitat staff is busy trying to keep the WMA's green
- Regional staff has been active working with grazing permittees, the public, and federal land management agencies to prevent wolf depredations north of Ketchum
- Attended Livestock Association's 90 years of business
- Attended Capitol for a Day in Fairfield with Governor Otter
- Region took 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy for the Equestrian Class at Twin Falls with the old time pack-string display

Upper Snake Region: Commissioner Wheeler reported on the following:

- Fires and drought are affecting the Upper Snake Region
- Chairman Wheeler expressed his thanks to the Director and staff for their efforts in planning the tour for the Commission
- Teton Valley
  - Irrigation and Land Use
- Grizzly Bear Planning by the Region
- Appreciated the Mule Deer Workshop and efforts of staff
- Attended Ad Hoc Funding Committee July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Boise
- Commends Director Groen on his report with the Governor's office

## **REPORT**

### **Access Yes Pilot Project in the Magic Valley**

Chairman Wheeler noted that he and Commissioner Wright have had the opportunity to discuss the Access Yes! Pilot Project in the Magic Valley with Director Groen.

Commissioner Wright stated he felt that access was one of the most important things that we as a Commission could provide for the future for our children and grandchildren.

Commissioner Wright stated that due to the limited interest by landowners in exchanging hunter access to private land for alternative compensation, such as non-transferable big game tags, pledges of help with habitat and enforcement, he is recommending to the Commission that the Access Yes! Pilot Project in the Magic Valley be cancelled.

Commissioner Wright noted that at this time, staff, and Commission time would be better utilized by concentrating on new funding sources, specifically the Ad Hoc Funding Committee.

Chairman Wheeler noted that the Magic Valley Access Yes Pilot Program is the “Commission Program” not Commissioner Wright’s program. Commissioner Wright was representing the Commission in his efforts and always asked for Commission direction for the program.

Chairman Wheeler agrees with Commissioner Wright that it would be in the best interest of the Commission to terminate the existing pilot program in the Magic Valley Region.

**07-73 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion THAT THE COMMISSION ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF COMMISSIONER WRIGHT TO TERMINATE THE EXISTING PILOT PROGRAM IN THE MAGIC VALLEY REGION 4 THAT PROVIDED TRANSFERABLE LANDOWNER APPRECIATION (LAP) TAGS TO LANDOWNERS IN RETURN FOR PROVIDING SPORTSMEN ACCESS. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Review of Proposed Legislative Ideas for FY08**

Sharon Kiefer presented the Department’s proposed Legislative Ideas for FY08 (Appendix 40, Exhibit 60).

- The Department submits legislative ideas to modify Idaho Code through Executive Agency Legislation Process
- Ideas are due to Division of Financial Management (DFM) by August 3
- DFM/Governor’s office for review and approve/disapprove ideas by September 3
- IDFG writes approved ideas into legislation, due to DFM by September 21

**07- 74 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **REPORT**

### **Spring and Summer Chinook Salmon Run and Fisheries Briefing**

Sharon Kiefer provided a brief report to the Commission (Appendix 40, Exhibit 61).

- She noted the Upriver Spring/Snake River summer Chinook count ended June 15 at Bonneville Dam
- The final count was 81,000 adults and 20,239 Jacks
- Lower Granite Dam as of July 15 the count was almost 29,000 adults
- Counting of spring and summer Chinook will end August 17
- Sockeye runsize at Lower Granite Dam through 7/16 is 37, compared to 11 (2006) and 15 (2005)
- The 2007 return of summer steelhead to the Snake River is expected to be slightly less than the return in 2006
- The 2006 actual return of upriver summer steelhead compares to the Bonneville Dam projection for 2007 as follows
  - 2006 Actual 319,300
  - 2007 Forecast 282,800

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The July Consent Calendar contained the minutes of the January 10-12, 2007 Commission meeting; the Financial Report; and the following budget adjustments:

### **Wildlife Budget Request:**

Federal aid generated through the Pittman Robertson Act provides money to each state for wildlife restoration. PR funds are apportioned to each state by a formula that takes into account hunting license sales and federal tax revenues generated from an excise tax on guns and ammunition. The PR apportionment for Idaho increased from \$4 to \$4.6 million for FY08. There was no significant event prompting an increase in gun or ammunition sales so this level of federal aid apportionment will likely remain stable. This budget modification reflects proposed changes to three PR funded grants; (1) Technical Assistance Grant-NRPB, (2) Survey & Inventory Grant-Wildlife Bureau, and (3) Habitat Management Grant-Wildlife Bureau.

Staff recommends the Director authorize spending authority to increase the federal share of PR budgets by \$721,200 for FY08. Non-federal match will be shifted from existing license budgets into 22 PR budgets that will be increased in FY08.

### **Natural Resources Policy Bureau Budget Request:**

The NRPB Bureau requests an increase in its FY08 budget, PCA # 76869, in the amount of \$ 115,000. This budget request is for the following purpose:

This is a BPA funded project. The funds will be used as part of mitigation for impacts to anadromous fish brought about by Anderson Ranch, Black Canyon, and Boise Diversion dams; all of which were constructed prior to Hells Canyon dam and were responsible for the elimination of anadromous fish in these basins. Project funding will be used to devise and implement a nutrient supplementation program in the Boise-Payette-Weiser systems to restore marine-derived nutrients to these watersheds. Nutrients will be delivered via carcasses, analogs, and liquid. Monitoring of results will be done in cooperation with the University of Idaho, Washington State University, and University of Alaska Fairbanks. Idaho Power Company is also a partner of the project.

**07-75 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion TO APPROVE ALL OF THE ITEMS IN THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **FISCAL**

### **FY09 Budget Status Review**

Jim Lau provided an update on the FY09 Budget status to the Commission.

Mr. Lau distributed the following handouts:

- Final license sales for FY07 (Appendix 40, Exhibit 62). He noted that sales were up about 6 % for the year.
- Department budget history for FY06, FY07, FY08 and FY09 (Appendix 40, Exhibit 63)
- Cash flow history and forecast (Appendix 40, Exhibit 64)

### **Legislative Overview Audit**

Jim Lau provided an overview of the Legislative Audit. Mr. Lau noted that Commissioners would receive copies of the Audit directly from Legislative Services Office (LSO). He distributed copies of the Legislative Services Office Audit dated July 9, 2007 (Appendix, Exhibit 65) to Commissioners. He stated that the Audit was conducted by (LSO) and was a routine audit. A formal response report will be sent in response to any findings on the audit.

## **REPORT**

### **Outdoor Central Licensing Update**

Jim Lau and Craig Wiedmeier presented an update on the new Outdoor Central licensing system currently in operation.

- The new Outdoor Central IWILD system went live at IDFG regional offices on May 25 and then at all vendor locations on June 1.



- Preliminary data results show the new IWILD system processed approximately 46,459 transactions (55,802 individual licenses and controlled hunt applications were issued, duplicated, or canceled) from June 1 through June 6. Most of those transactions occurred on June 4 and June 5. We are continuing to work with Outdoor Central to ensure that all of the data has been provided to IDFG and will provide up to date sales data at the Commission meeting.
- The Outdoor Central main host system has not experienced any downtime since going live.
- License Section Staff continue to test new software releases to fix outstanding defects and will begin planning a phase 2 implementation for issues that were deemed non critical for go live.

Mr. Lau presented a letter of appreciation to Craig Wiedmeier and Bryon Leinberger for their work and efforts in coordinating the new Outdoor Central Licensing System.

Craig Wiedmeier provided a display model of the new Hook & Bulletin Board that will be displayed at the vendor locations. The Hook & Bulletin Board will be used as a tool to keep the public informed of Department happenings. Mr. Wiedmeier noted that Mike Keckler, Communications Chief, designed the board.

### **Mule Deer Management Plan Update**

Randy Smith, Regional Wildlife Manager, provided an update to the Commission (Appendix 40, exhibit 66). Mr. Smith noted that in 2006 the Department began revising the State Mule Deer Management Plan. Central to this revision is a statewide mule deer hunter survey conducted by the University of Idaho. Results from the public survey are being used to establish statewide direction for mule deer management.

A multi-disciplinary Department team has reviewed results from the hunter survey and drafted broad mule deer management goals that will be used to develop proposed plan objectives and management actions.

Species management plans provide overall management direction. Although plans do not require rule making, they do incorporate Commission policy and direction.

The statewide mule deer hunter survey provided the initial opportunity for public involvement. Additionally, the Department will use regional sounding boards ('focus groups'), public meetings, print media, internet, informal contacts, and Commission public hearings to provide continuous opportunities for public involvement.

### **Release of Bighorn Sheep Tags for Auction/Lottery**

Brad Compton, Big Game State Manager, briefed the Commission on the auction/lottery tags for bighorn sheep. He noted that the Idaho Fish and Game Commission is authorized

to release a bighorn sheep tag for auction since 1988, and a bighorn sheep tag for lottery since 1992. Department proceeds from the auction tag are used to fund bighorn sheep research and management. Proceeds from the lottery tag help fund Department activities for resolving problems between wild and domestic animals. Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been the conservation organization historically selected for marketing the tags.

Mr. Compton asked the Commission to approve the release of auction and lottery bighorn sheep tags for 2008 to be marketed by the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

**07- 76 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a MOTION TO APPROVE (1) AUCTION AND (1) LOTTERY BIGHORN SHEEP TAGS FOR 2008 TO BE MARKETED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR NORTH AMERICAN WILD SHEEP. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

#### **Direction of Expenditure of Animal Damage Control Board Funds**

Jim Unsworth, Wildlife Chief, briefed the Commission on the expenditure of animal damage control board funds. Mr. Unsworth noted that Idaho statute annually appropriates \$100,000 of Department funds to the State Animal Damage Control Board for control of predatory animals and birds. Additionally, the Department annually transfers surplus funds from the expendable depredation account to the State Animal Damage Control Board. Idaho statute authorizes the Commission to direct how these funds are to be used.

Since 2005 the Commission has directed \$50,000 or more to be used for intensive coyote removal in conjunction with the Mule Deer Initiative in eastern Idaho. Additional funds, approximately \$50,000, have been directed by the Commission to support Wildlife Services activities identified in the MOU between the Department and the Animal Damage Control Board.

36-112. ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL FUND. The animal damage control fund is hereby established in the state treasury. Moneys in the fund are subject to appropriation to the state animal damage control board established by section 25-2612A, Idaho Code, for the control of predatory animals and birds. In addition to moneys transferred into the fund pursuant to section 36-115(c), Idaho Code, the state controller shall annually, by August 1 of each year, transfer the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the fish and game fund to the animal damage control fund. The state animal damage control board in using these moneys shall follow fish and game commission direction on actions regarding predatory animals or birds forwarded by the department by the same date.

The Department recommendations for the fund allocations are for \$50,000 to the general operations of the Animal Damage Control Board through out the state; and \$50,000 to the Mule Deer Initiative

**07-77 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUND ALLOCATIONS ARE FOR \$50,000 TO THE GENERAL OPERATIONS OF THE ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL BOARD THROUGH OUT THE STATE; AND \$50,000 TO THE MULE DEER INITIATIVE. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **RULES**

### **Access yes Landowner Appreciation Permits Unit 45**

Brad Compton, Big Game State Manager, presented the Department recommendations (Appendix 40, Exhibit 67) for Access Yes Landowner Appreciation Permits in Unit 45.

In 2007, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopted, and the Department of Fish and Game implemented the Magic Valley Access Yes Pilot Project. Goals of the pilot project are to expand hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities on private land, and to improve private land wildlife habitat. Big game landowner tags are one of the incentives used to solicit private landowner participation in the pilot project. Tags for the pilot project were made available from the existing pool of Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) tags.

Providing landowner tags for the pilot project in Unit 45 necessitated a reduction in available LAP tags. Landowners eligible for LAP tags in Unit 45 exceed the number of tags available. Not all of the Unit 45 landowner tags allocated to the pilot project will be used.

Idaho Code 36-104 (b)(5) and IDAPA 13.01.04.400 provide authority and rules for allocating landowner tags. Additionally, the Commission adopted temporary rules in January 2007 regulating the allocation of big game tags for the Magic Valley Access Yes Pilot Project.

Development of the Magic Valley Access Yes Pilot Project received considerable public involvement; including landowner and sportsmen mail surveys, landowner and sportsmen focus groups, public meetings, review by the Fish & Game Advisory Committee, and Commission hearings.

Staff recommends the Commission reallocate unused pilot project landowner tags to LAP tags in Unit 45.

**07-78 Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion TO REALLOCATE UNUSED PILOT PROJECT LANDOWNER TAGS TO LAP TAGS IN UNIT 45. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **REPORT**

### **Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Report**

Gayle Valentine, Executive Director, briefed the Commission on the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF) activities.

- New Administrative Assistant, Tinae Turcotte, starting July 31<sup>st</sup> for IFWF
- Ms. Valentine noted that Sharon Kiefer is her new supervisor
- IFWF has held two conference calls in July
- Stella Bush is the new treasurer for IFWF
- The contract with Steve Barton for the Wildlife Plates has been extended to the end of August 2007
- Gayle and Tom Parker, Wildlife Land Consultant, visited three proposed mitigation sites in the Upper Blackfoot River (per Upper Blackfoot Trust Fund Agreement 5/2001)
- Visited two proposed conservation easement sites in Region 5 called Lower Rock Creek easements
- The August 17<sup>th</sup> IFWF Board meeting will be held in Idaho Falls

### **Migratory Bird Discussion**

Tom Hemker briefed the Commission on the proposed waterfowl regulations for 2007 (Appendix 40, Exhibit 68). The Commission sets seasons for migratory game birds including ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, and doves. This presentation reviewed the 2007 status of Idaho's duck and goose populations and options for 2007 seasons. The 2007 season frameworks will be finalized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on August 2, 2007 and the Commission will take final action during a conference call on August 6 or 7.

### **Potential Fishing Rule Changes**

Bill Horton, briefed the Commission on the proposed rule changes (Appendix 40, exhibit 69). The proposed rule changes are a mix of Department staff and public proposals solicited from our scoping process. Public proposals have been provided to the Department via conversations, written letters, and email during the last year and half and at public scoping meetings this spring.

Mr. Horton stated that every two years, the Commission establishes the general fishing rules. We are now looking at rules to be considered for 2008 and 2009. This is a preliminary step for Commission approval to take proposed changes to existing rules to the public for comment and to solicit Commission input on proposed rules for public comment.

Sections 36-104(b) and 36-901 authorize the Commission to adopt rules concerning fishing, methods of take, seasons, and possession limits. Fishing rules are IDAPA 13.01.11.

The Commission approves the request so that the Department can take these proposed consolidated changes to the public for further comments. Comments and final rule proposals will be presented to Commission in November for final action.

Mr. Horton noted that the landowner at Weston Reservoir in the Southeast Region did not want the current “float tubes only” rule changed. So the Department is asking the Commission to approve only the part of proposed change #26 to remove “float tubes only” restriction on Winder Reservoir. That proposed change will not be deleted.

### **Potential Options for Muzzleloader Equipment Rules**

Brad Compton, Big Game State Manager, provided a report outlining options, with anticipated outcomes, for a range of potential modifications to existing muzzleloader rules.

Mr. Compton stated that based on numerous requests from sportsmen, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission conducted a review of big game hunting equipment rules in 2006. The review included Department staff input, guest experts, and input from sportsmen and sportsmen organizations. In January 2007, the Department recommended and the Commission adopted numerous changes to equipment rules, including the legal definition of a muzzleloader for muzzleloader-only hunts. With the exception of muzzleloader rules, rule changes were supported by a majority of sportsmen responding to statewide input opportunities. Public comment was equally divided between those supporting and those opposing a muzzleloader rule change.

Current muzzleloader rules prohibit the vast majority of in-line muzzleloaders, including those previously allowed and used by many Idaho muzzleloader hunters. This prohibition generated much public concern and comment, primarily from northern Idaho and out-of-state muzzleloader enthusiasts.

In March 2007, the Commission adopted a few short-range weapon seasons in northern Idaho to accommodate hunters desiring to retain use of their in-line muzzleloaders during late-season special weapon seasons. These short-range weapon seasons were implemented on a temporary basis until further review of muzzleloader equipment restrictions could be conducted.

Development and review of proposed equipment rule changes were conducted with extensive public involvement and comment. Opportunities for public input included the November Commission workshop, regional public meetings and open houses, a web-based survey, and Commission public hearings. Overall, the Department received input from over 4,000 sportsmen.

Mr. Compton presented four options and outcomes for the future:

**Option 1)**

No Change

**Outcomes:**

- Provides maximum opportunity
- Short-term reduction in hunters (? long-term effects)
- Social concerns (Panhandle, Clearwater, Southwest)

**Option 2)**

Revert back to 2006 rules

**Outcomes:**

- Maintains existing opportunity
- Maintain/increase hunter numbers from 2006 levels
- Continue trend of converting hunts
- Resource allocation conflicts between user groups
- Fragments user groups
- Mixed support from muzzleloader hunters

**Option 3)**

Modify existing rule

(e.g. eliminate pivoting hammer requirement)

**Outcomes:**

- Maintains most of existing opportunity
- Maintain hunter numbers from 2006 levels
- Addresses majority of social concerns with current rule
- Minimizes resource allocation conflicts
- Not supported by some traditional muzzleloader hunters

**Option 4)**

Eliminate MZ equipment restrictions

(Allow all forms of muzzleloader technology)

**Outcomes:**

- Provides least opportunity
- Short-term & long-term reduction in hunters
- Easiest to enforce
- Mixed support from muzzleloader hunters
- Major management philosophy change

Mr. Compton noted one other issue that came up was short-range weapon seasons. The Department has had these for several years. He stated that most of the short-weapon seasons were implemented in areas in the state for human safety.

The Department is looking for direction on which option to take out to the public.

Commission discussion followed with each Commissioner providing input. After discussion, the Commission directed the Department to follow through with public scoping for Option 3.

### **Land Legacy Project Update**

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, provided an update to the Commission. He stated that Department staff has been moving forward with the Land Legacy project and will provide status reports and a description (action plans) of how we propose to proceed with the following: 1) Idaho Land Legacy report, 2) settlement agreements for wildlife mitigation debt with BPA and Tribal partners, 3) sale of surplus lands, and 4) establishment of a Land Legacy Trust or Endowment.

Mr. Servheen distributed a list of Idaho Department of Fish and Game surplus lands (Appendix 40, Exhibit 70). Mr. Servheen noted that there is approximately 16,000 acres of surplus land.

Mr. Servheen distributed a copy of the Idaho Legacy Places Report Briefing Paper (Appendix 40, Exhibit 71). He noted that the Idaho Legacy Places Report is an atlas of places in Idaho most important to insuring Idaho's legacy of fish, wildlife, and fish and wildlife recreation. A Legacy Place can be as large as hundreds of thousands of acres or as small as a few acres; but all are described in terms of their location, land, climate, vegetation, and their unique social, biological, recreational, ecological, and historic qualities. Each Place is also described in terms of its stewardship needs over the next 20-50 years.

Objectives of the Idaho Legacy Places Report are to identify land and waters most critical to conserve game species and native plants and animals and their habitats. The Department collaborated with many citizens to develop the Report.

The Commission asked that the Department table its efforts to develop the Land Legacy Report because of potential confusion and harm it might cause to the overall Land Legacy project. And the Commission also stated that they: 1) would keep all options open in terms of lands disposal strategies in order to maximize the potential of success and fund raising of this option and, 2) that they were interested in hearing a presentation about how the monies might be invested and managed as a Trust/Endowment.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Date Change for November Commission Meeting**

**07-79 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion TO CHANGE THE DATES FOR THE NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING TO NOVEMBER 15-17, 2007. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

Commissioners selected August 13<sup>th</sup> as the date for the conference call to set waterfowl regulations.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. and the Commission went into executive session.

**Executive Session**

**07-80 Commissioner McDermott moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION, PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE 67-2345(1) (C) LAND ACQUISITION. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

The executive session ended at 5:36 p.m. and no official action was taken.

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Cameron Wheeler  
Chairman

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Cal Groen  
Secretary